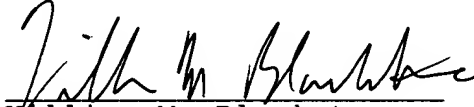


REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 9-11, 13, 15 and 16 are amended and claims 2 and 12 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-16 are presented for examination. These amendments made prior to examination are presented to conform the language of the claims to accepted U.S. patent practice without limiting the scope of the claims as first written. These amendments are not made for reasons of patentability under 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 or 112 and no estoppel is created by these amendments.

It is believed that claims 1, 3-11 and 13-16 recite a patentable improvement in the art. Favorable action is solicited. In the event any fees are required with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334.

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Blackstone
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,772

Attorney Docket No. 99469 US
Akzo Nobel Patent Department
1300 Piccard Drive, Suite 206
Rockville, Maryland 20850-4373
Tel: (301) 948-7400
Fax: (301) 948-9751

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that], wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Amended) A compound according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein R₁ is oxo, R₃ is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a Δ^4 double bond.

5. (Amended) A compound according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein R₂ is ethyl or ethenyl.

6. (Amended) A compound according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is] claim 1, selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7,13-Diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one and (7 α ,17 β)-7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

7. (Amended) The compound (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one (7 α -ethyl-19-nortestosterone) [for use as a medicine].

9. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 8, [characterised in that in the steroid compound] wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl,

ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 α ,17 β)-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to [any one of the claims 8 to 10, characterised in that it is] claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

13. (Amended) A kit for male contraception comprising [means for the administration of] a progestagen and [means for the administration of] an androgen, [characterised in that the latter means is a pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 8-11] wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

15. (Amended) A method of treatment according to claim 14, [characterized in that in the steroid compound] wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

16. (Amended) A method of treatment according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 α ,17 β)-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

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